



February 28, 2007

Via Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Smithville Telephone Company – *Ex Parte Comments*
(PS Docket No. 06-229)
(WT Docket No. 96-86)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Smithville Telephone Company, Inc. ("Smithville") is an independent telephone company that provides service in the State of Indiana. Our company has been in business since 1922 and we have a demonstrated commitment to consumers and communities in our service area. Through a wholly-owned subsidiary (Smithville Spectrum, LLC), we were a successful bidder for AWS licenses in CMA409 (under Call Sign WQGB435) and CMA410 (under Call Sign WQGB436).

Smithville supports comments filed on February 26, 2006, in the above-captioned dockets, by the Blooston Rural Carriers. In particular, we believe it would be extremely unfair to rural carriers and recent auction winners to allow a government-sponsored entity that obtained its spectrum rights for free, and which enjoys nationwide economies of scale, to make excess public safety spectrum capacity available to commercial providers. Creating such a subsidized competitor would be detrimental to the viability of smaller and rural wireless carriers, as well as threaten jobs and the availability of commercial services that rural consumers depend upon.

Respectfully submitted,

Darby A. McCarty

Smithville Telephone Company, Inc.
President / CEO